GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2972
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2005
LEGAL SERVICES
Abdullakutty Shri A.P.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is opening up its legal service sector for foreign participation as per WTO agreement;

(b) if so, whether the Government has set up any expert committee to examine the implications of such move; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) to (c): India has not undertaken any commitments in Legal Services in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), during the Uruguay Round. Under the ongoing Doha Round of negotiations also, no commitments have been offered in Legal Services in India`s Initial Offer. A team of Indian and United Kingdom (U.K.) lawyers are expected to exchange views on the status of the legal services and issues that are required to be tackled before legal services are opened up.